

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 4 – 9, without prejudice, and amend claim 11, as noted below. As amended, the Status Of The Claims Will be as follows:

1 – 3 (Previously Canceled)

4 – 9 (Canceled)

10. (Previously Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A container, said container having a body portion with a closed bottom, a neck portion axially positioned above said body portion, said neck portion tapering inwardly as it extends away from said body portion, and a closure-receiving finish portion, said neck portion being positioned between said body portion and said finish portion, said container being adapted to a hold a large volume of a liquid, being formed in a single piece by molding from a thermoplastic material that has at least an innermost layer of PET, said container further having no opening extending laterally therethrough and having a gripping gripping feature formed by a spaced apart pair of axially extending, opposed gripping panels that extend into said container and extend parallel to one another, the space (S) between said gripping panels being uniform in width along an a substantial axial length portion of said gripping feature and the space between gripping panels being no more than 2-1/2 in.;

wherein said body portion is generally circular in cross-section, and said gripping panels extend into said container in said neck portion; and said body portion has a diameter of at least 4-1/4 in.

12. (Original) A container according to claim 11, wherein:
said container has an internal capacity of at least 64 oz.

13. (Original) A container according to claim 12 wherein:
each of said gripping panels is concave in cross-section.

14. (Previously Amended) A container according to claim 13

wherein:

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a ratio of the space between opposed gripping panels, as measured between depths of said gripping panels, to the major lateral extent of said container does not exceed 0.55.

15. (Original) A container according to claim 14 wherein said ratio is at least 0.35.

16. (Original) A container according to claim 15 wherein said ratio is approximately 0.41.

17. (Previously Canceled)

18. (Previously Canceled)

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Previously Added) A container according to claim 11

wherein:

 said neck portion is generally non-circular in cross-section with a large width end and a smaller width opposed end, said opposed gripping panels extending into said neck portion from said opposed end.

21. (Previously Added) A container according to claim 11

wherein:

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 said container is adapted for packaging a still beverage that is introduced, while hot, into the container and is sealed in the container by applying a closure to the finish portion of the container while the beverage is still hot, said body portion having a circumferentially spaced apart plurality of inwardly projecting panels for partial collapsing to accommodate shrinkage of the packaged beverage as it cools.